

## CLAIMS

1. A data processor for playing back a content while acquiring a data stream including content data,

the data stream being consisted of a plurality of  
5 packets, each said packet including the content data and an identifier to show the type of the content data, a portion of the content data corresponding to the top of a playback unit having a header showing the identity of the playback unit,

the data processor comprising:

10 a stream extracting section for acquiring a first data stream and then a second data stream;

a packet inserting section, which makes a dummy packet, having a dummy identifier that is different from any of the identifiers of the packets, and which inserts the dummy packet  
15 between the last packet of the first data stream and the first packet of the second data stream;

a splitting section for splitting the content data into respective types according to the identifiers and inserting error data, which is different from the content data, upon the  
20 detection of the dummy identifier; and

a decoder, which plays back the content data on the basis of the playback unit and, on detecting the error data, discards incomplete content data at the end of the first data stream and a portion of the content data of the second data stream up to the first header thereof such that those content data are not played back.

2. The data processor of claim 1, wherein an error code, representing an error, is predefined for the data stream, and wherein the splitting section inserts the error code as the error data.

3. The data processor of claim 2, wherein the splitting section further inserts a bit string of zeros having a predetermined length as the error data, and

wherein when detecting one of the error code and the bit string, the decoder determines that the error data has been detected.

4. The data processor of claim 2, wherein the data

representing the content has been encoded by a variable length coding technique and is included in the data stream, and

wherein the splitting section inserts a bit string, of which the bit length is equal to or greater than a maximum  
5 code length used in the variable length coding technique.

5. The data processor of claim 4, wherein the content at least includes video, and

wherein the splitting section inserts a bit string, of  
10 which the bit length is equal to or greater than a maximum code length used in the variable length coding technique for video.

6. The data processor of claim 1, wherein the stream  
15 extracting section acquires the first and second data streams, each being consisted of transport stream packets.

7. The data processor of claim 1, wherein the stream  
extracting section acquires mutually different portions of a  
20 single data stream, representing the same content, as the

first and second data streams, respectively.

8. The data processor of claim 1, wherein the stream  
extracting section acquires the first and second data streams  
5 from a storage medium.

9. The data processor of claim 1, wherein the stream  
extracting section acquires the first and second data streams  
that have been broadcast.  
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10. A data processing method for playing back a content  
while acquiring a data stream including content data,

the data stream being consisted of a plurality of  
packets, each said packet including the content data and an  
15 identifier to show the type of the content data, a portion of  
the content data corresponding to the top of a playback unit  
having a header showing the identity of the playback unit,

the method comprising the steps of:

acquiring a first data stream and then a second data  
20 stream;

making a dummy packet, having a dummy identifier that is different from any of the identifiers of the packets;

inserting the dummy packet between the last packet of the first data stream and the first packet of the second data  
5 stream;

splitting the content data into respective types according to the identifiers;

inserting error data, which is different from the content data, upon the detection of the dummy identifier;

10 playing back the content data on the basis of the playback unit; and

discarding incomplete content data at the end of the first data stream and a portion of the content data of the second data stream up to the first header thereof on detecting  
15 the error data.

11. The data processing method of claim 10, wherein an error code, representing an error, is predefined for the data stream, and

20 wherein the step of inserting the error data includes

inserting the error code as the error data.

12. The data processing method of claim 11, wherein the  
step of inserting the error data further includes inserting a  
5 bit string of zeros having a predetermined length as the error  
data, and

wherein the step of discarding includes determining that  
the error data has been detected on detecting one of the  
error code and the bit string.

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13. The data processing method of claim 11, wherein the  
data representing the content has been encoded by a variable  
length coding technique and is included in the data stream,  
and

15 wherein the step of inserting the error data includes  
inserting a bit string, of which the bit length is equal to  
or greater than a maximum code length used in the variable  
length coding technique.

20 14. The data processing method of claim 13, wherein the

content at least includes video, and

wherein the step of inserting the error data includes inserting a bit string, of which the bit length is equal to or greater than a maximum code length used in the variable  
5 length coding technique for video.

15. The data processing method of claim 10, wherein the step of acquiring includes acquiring the first and second data streams, each being consisted of transport stream packets.

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16. The data processing method of claim 10, wherein the step of acquiring includes acquiring mutually different portions of a single data stream, representing the same content, as the first and second data streams, respectively.

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17. The data processing method of claim 10, wherein the step of acquiring includes acquiring the first and second data streams from a storage medium.

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18. The data processing method of claim 10, wherein the

step of acquiring includes acquiring the first and second data streams that have been broadcast.